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Better Tomato Seed

PRICE LIST 1926-1927

H. P. LANGDON & SON
CONSTABLE, N. Y.

D. N. Shoemaker

*Is this what YOU
want in tomato seed?*

High Germination

True to Varietal
Name

Of the highest possible
type of that variety

Our seed is specially grown and selected
from our own Breeding Fields to attain
the highest results possible.

THIS BUSINESS

is founded upon two principles: that the use of high grade seed does pay, and that most gardeners, or general seedsmen, cannot give to the breeding of the tomato the attention it deserves.

We specialize in tomato seed. Each variety, the best in its class, is given all possible attention.

To begin, several of the plants nearest ideal are chosen in a variety, and the seed sown in separate plots the next summer. The difference between these plots usually proves to be considerable; in earliness, vigor, or quality of fruit, and sometimes in ways hardly to be expected considering the type of parent plants used. This brings out a fact to be considered in this work, that one cannot be sure from the looks of a plant just what its progeny will be. Some plants will have much greater power in reproducing their good qualities than will the others. Therefore, the plants in the best plot have not only their good appearance to commend them over others in the general field, but also a record of one year to prove the ability of that line to perpetuate itself.

A few of these best hills are chosen from this plot, sown separately the next year, and the plots compared as before. The variations will not be as marked this time, and the average will be higher than the year before. However, one plot will be best in some ways, and selections are made from this for the next year's trial in the same way.

This is continued from year to year, and as the variation becomes less and less, so the ideal type toward which one has been working becomes more and more strongly fixed.

All seed offered for sale is grown by us for just that purpose (we do no canning), and is from the very highest type parentage we have been able to secure. It will cost you more than ordinary seed, about seventy cents per acre in the case of the selected grades and \$4.50 for the No. 3 Earliana. Or, in other words, one extra bushel per acre from the use of this seed will pay the additional cost.

ABOUT VARIETIES

Just a word for the new arrival in tomato growing, for with the many varieties on the market today it is pretty hard to pick the best from the catalogues. First, let us say that the few we are listing are the best of the lot for the ability to get right down and make money. When better varieties are introduced and have proven themselves we hope to be among the first to offer them.

Our present list is intended principally for the U. S. north of the Carolinas and Mississippi. For the southern shipper we hope to have an improved strain of Globe to offer next year, also the Marglobe if another year's trial proves it O. K.

Varieties are listed on the following pages in the order of their ripening. The Earliana is standard for first early over nearly the whole country. Bonny Best and Redhead are running about even in popularity for second early, with Baer not quite so much used, perhaps because of a couple of days delay in ripening. Jewel and Stone, for early main crop, are about equal. Red Rock is perhaps superior to Bloomsdale for late crop on account of the wonderful firmness of its fruit.

It will be noticed that two varieties are given for each season of maturity, except the extra early. It will depend largely upon your own particular conditions which ones will best suit you. Our personal preference is for Earliana, Bonny Best, Stone and Red Rock, but some of the others might be best for you and are worth a trial at least.

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|---|
| <p>OUR WARRANTY All seed offered by us has been tested and proven to be of good germination. We will replace free of charge any seed which does not germinate under favorable conditions, providing our stock has not been sold out. Naturally, we can go no further than this in guaranteeing your success.</p> |
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ADIRONDACK EARLIANA

Probably no other variety has made as many friends, and bitter enemies, as the old Sparks Earliana. Extremely variable, sometimes very good and at other times so rough and soft as to be almost worthless, it has nevertheless been used by almost every gardener because of its one redeeming feature, extra early maturity.

Our strain, which we have called the "Adirondack Earliana," is from a selection of the Sparks Earliana which we made twenty-one years ago. Each year since it has been given the best care we know of in selective or line breeding, toward the ideal of extreme earliness combined with good fruit and vine characteristics.

It is a little earlier than Sparks Earliana, which means a week or ten days earlier than Bonny Best, and with the advantage of maturing the bulk of the crop quickly. Vines are vigorous, productive, and quite large for so early a variety. Fruit is good size, smooth and thick, no depression at blossom end and colored well to stem. Seed cavities are small and the walls thick, very firm.

There are two considerations in regard to growing Earliana which every gardener knows, yet which will bear repeating. Because of earlier blossoming and maturity, and also temperament, they are not as able to recover from excessive hardening or severe shock as are the later varieties. To illustrate. Two years ago we set part of a field with rather soft plants from glass frames, the crop was very ordinary in both quantity and quality. The rest of the field set with plants of the same lot but well hardened in cloth frames yielded almost double, several days earlier in ripening and splendid in quality. This doesn't mean that the Earliana is too fussy to bother with, merely that good care pays.

The other thing to remember is that not only is heavy ground late ground, but that the Earliana variety is not well adapted to it and generally will not do its best there. Give it the rich sandy loam it delights in, with moisture holding capacity to carry the crop through, and it may easily be the most profitable crop you can grow.

NEW JERSEY—

Jan. 29, 1926.—Last spring you supplied me with two ounces of Earliana seed from which I shipped nineteen tons of tomatoes, for which I received checks amounting to over twenty-nine hundred dollars. In addition I sold locally over three tons, also gave away a good many five-eighth bushel baskets. Your tomatoes beat everything on the market.

H. G.

ONTARIO—

Jan. 6, 1926.—This makes our ninth annual order and would state that we believe your seed to be the earliest and most productive of any we have ever tried.

M. B.

OHIO—

Jan. 12, 1926.—Another year your Earliana strain has proved to be the best. Your strain has made me twice the money any other ever has, for it is the first ripe and sure sets the fruit, and all perfect and solid.

E. J.

VIRGINIA—

Jan. 7, 1926.—Your seed is best I ever used. All the seed comes up and makes the finest tomatoes I ever saw.

V. M.

MICHIGAN—

Jan. 27, 1926.—Your Earliana and Bonny Best are all that could be desired.

G. M.

RHODE ISLAND—

Jan. 30, 1926.—Having proved through many years experience the superiority of your tomato seed over seeds of same name from most other sources, am sending again for our annual requirements.

D. P.

MISSOURI—

Jan. 9, 1926.—I do not garden on any large scale, but I am champion among the early tomato growers of this section, which I owe to your Earliana. It beats anything I ever tried to grow for early market.

J. D.

ILLINOIS—

Feb. 13, 1926.—Did I ever tell you I raised five thousand plants from an ounce of your Earliana seed and my neighbors laughed at me when I told them I paid \$5.00 an ounce for it? But they did not laugh when I received seven hundred and eleven dollars for one Ford truckload of tomatoes from those five thousand plants.

D. A.

Price of Langdon's Twenty-one Selection and Line Bred Earliana Tomato

Grade No. 1— $\frac{1}{4}$ Oz., 25c; $\frac{1}{2}$ Oz., 40c; 1 Oz., 60c; 2 Oz., \$1.20; 4 Oz., \$2.00; 8 Oz., \$3.60; 1 pound, \$6.40.

Grade No. 2—Seed from crown and selected fruit: $\frac{1}{8}$ Oz., 30c; $\frac{1}{4}$ Oz., 50c; $\frac{1}{2}$ Oz., 75c. Less than one-half pound, \$1.25 per Oz., $\frac{1}{2}$ pound, \$9.50; one pound, \$18.00.

Grade No. 3—Seed from our breeding fields. Best private Stock, just such as we sow, supply limited. $\frac{1}{8}$ Oz., \$1.00; $\frac{1}{4}$ Oz., \$2.00; $\frac{1}{2}$ Oz., \$3.00; 1 Oz., \$5.00; 4 Ozs., \$18.00. No discount for less than four ounces.

This grade is from Breeding Fields, carefully selected for earliness and vigor in the parent plant and size, shape and smoothness of fruit, which is then cut and all fruit rejected that does not come up to the standard in solidity and small seed cavities. Can be supplied only when in stock; and seed of this grade cannot be bought elsewhere, for the cutting and sorting is not left to the judgment of hired help. It is done personally by the members of the firm themselves, who give you the results of their years of experience in this line.

We believe we are the only growers in the country of whom you can buy an extra choice grade of tomato seed, selected by themselves in the same particular manner as this Grade No. 3 Adirondack Earliana.

THE LOCATION at which this seed is grown is also worthy of consideration. We are north of the Adirondacks, four miles from the Canadian Line, with a growing season of only about three months and a half free from frost, with generally cool days and many cold nights. This has without doubt been a factor in the improvement of these strains.

LATER VARIETIES

| | ¼ oz. | ½ oz. | 1 oz. | 2 oz. | 4 oz. | 8 oz. |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| BONNY BEST, Langdon strain (extra selected)..... | \$1.00 | \$1.50 | \$2.50 | \$4.50 | \$8.00 | \$14.00 |
| BONNY BEST, Langdon strain (selected) | .50 | .75 | 1.25 | 2.25 | 4.00 | 7.00 |
| REDHEAD (selected) | .50 | .75 | 1.25 | 2.25 | 4.00 | 7.00 |
| STONE (selected)..... | .50 | .75 | 1.25 | 2.25 | 4.00 | 7.00 |
| JEWEL (selected) | .50 | .75 | 1.25 | 2.25 | 4.00 | 7.00 |
| BAER (selected)..... | .50 | .75 | 1.25 | 2.25 | 4.00 | 7.00 |
| RED ROCK (selected) | .50 | .75 | 1.25 | 2.25 | 4.00 | 7.00 |
| BLOOMSDALE (selected) | .50 | .75 | 1.25 | 2.25 | 4.00 | 7.00 |



BONNY BEST (Langdon Strain)

This splendid second early has long been a favorite for both market and canning, and is too well known to need description. However, we want to mention several characteristics strongly fixed in this strain. First, it is a little earlier than the general type of Bonny Best. Quite a number of growers using particularly early soil or special culture are using this strain for first early with very gratifying results.

One of the weak points of Bonny Best used to be its tendency toward small fruit. This has been largely overcome, the fruit running about ideal packing size, and with the Bonny Best characteristics of smoothness and depth, high color and solidity. Its productiveness is also worthy of note, for it is a remarkably heavy cropper.

We have been receiving many strong recommendations for this variety for greenhouse forcing, and would consider it the best one for this purpose.

While it will do well on any good tomato soil, it is perhaps the best variety for extremely rich or heavy soils, for it will not grow vines at the expense of fruit as might be the tendency with most others.

In answer to the demand for an extra selected grade of our strain of Bonny Best, corresponding to our extra selected grade of Earliana, we have secured a limited quantity of this grade from crown and second cluster fruit grown on the most vigorous, prolific plants. This selection is done by the members of the firm themselves. There can be none better. The selected grade Bonny Best, as with the other varieties, is secured from medium to large smooth fruit grown on good hills, discarding all others.

Mar. 13, 1926.—The Extra Selected tomato seed we have been getting from you during the last few years for forcing in our greenhouses has been far superior to anything we have ever got elsewhere.

F. W., New York.

REDHEAD

As mentioned before, this variety closely resembles Bonny Best. Although introduced but comparatively few years ago the demand exceeds that of any other variety except the Adirondack Earliana and Bonny Best. It is early, vines vigorous and productive, fruit large, well colored, firm and of good shape.

Mar. 9, 1926.—Your Grade No. 3 Earliana tomato is the best money can buy. Plants set out here May 26th picked ripe tomatoes July 1st. Received 50c per pound for some of them. Also had your Redhead and Bonny Best, which are two that cannot be beat.

H. B., Michigan.

BAER. (John Baer)

A good choice on dry, light soils, as it will set less fruit but mature them larger in size than Redhead or Bonny Best will do there. It is a thoroughly dependable variety, but a couple of days later in maturity and possibly not quite as productive as Bonny Best on the better soils.

JEWEL and STONE

mature a week or ten days after Baer. Jewel has the larger vines and fruit of the two, Stone being somewhat more compact and with fruit about the size of Bonny Best. This is well colored and very firm, a desirable characteristic.

BLOOMSDALE

introduced a few years ago, has quite a good deal to commend it for midseason crop. Two points in particular: it is very productive, and the fruit is large size, well colored and very deep through, surely does fill up the baskets. Not especially thick skinned, however, and in localities with a good deal of rain at this season the Red Rock will probably pack more No. 1 fruit.

RED ROCK

In spite of some faults the Red Rock is the best late main crop variety we know of. Its faults are these: the fruit is not particularly uniform in size, not as deep as some other late varieties, and not especially productive on very light soil. Far offsetting these, however, is its wonderful firmness of fruit which enables one to pack nearly one hundred percent as they come from the field when other varieties are almost worthless from excessive rain. Splendidly productive under most conditions, the fruit almost never cracks, very dark red in color and extra good in quality for both table use and canning. It has been our experience that this variety has been well liked by everyone.

SOWING and CULTURE

There are several splendid books and quite a number of very good Experiment Station bulletins on Tomato Growing. We can't go far on such a broad subject in a couple of pages, so we are just visiting. If you have some ideas worked out that will be of benefit to our fellow gardeners we hope you will write about them.

An old tobacco tin makes a handy tool for sowing tomato seed. A row of holes is punched with a nail along the bottom near the edge, from the inside out. Fill about one-quarter full of seed, and with a very little practice it will scatter them down the row in fine shape.

You will probably water the seed bed immediately after sowing. It is a very good idea to cover it then with burlap bags till the plants begin breaking ground. This will check evaporation and keep the bed moist and soft, with no crust from frequent waterings for the little plants to work through. Also, and very important, it will keep the soil from absorbing too much of the sun's heat on bright days. There seems to be a period in the germination of tomato seed when it is particularly sensitive to high temperature, when the seed may be literally cooked by a temperature which would be harmless before or after. A bright sun even in early spring may do this; we believe this to be one of the more common causes of poor germination.

Sowing thickly in flats and transplanting while plants are very young is a necessity with many growers, especially florists. However, if one can possibly use a little more space, we much prefer to sow thinly in beds (one ounce to fifty square feet, in three inch rows), and leave them there till just before they begin to crowd. They are strong, stocky plants by that time, with well developed tops and good root system, and are moved with hardly a day's check in growth. It is well known that weeds, for instance, are more easily killed just after coming through the ground when food supply from the seed is exhausted, than they are ten days later when they have secured a reserve supply from the soil. Seems to us this applies to tomatoes, also. They handle easier then, too.

Wonder how many gardeners follow out the plan of wetting down the plants the evening of the day before they are to be moved. Helps them a lot. One does need to be careful not to water too many, though, for a couple of days' delay in moving might almost ruin them.

Some growers water the bed with a sprinkler after the plants are moved and the dirt pinched around them, others give each plant a drink individually before pinching in. We like the latter plan best, using a coffee can with a hole in the side near the bottom, and giving each plant a squirt which washes and settles the soil in close contact with the roots. Doesn't take long and plants will need much less attention afterward. It is particularly important if one must hire much of the work done, for not one in a dozen hired help but will sooner or later leave an air space around the roots, unless watered in this way.

Wish we could give more personal information on the use of Semesan and Uspulun for the control of damping off. We had some on hand for trial this spring, but had no damping off develop to try it on. We do believe very strongly, however, in the use of ground limestone on the seed and plant beds for this trouble. It has reduced the loss with us to almost nothing. It is not effective immediately as are the others, of course, but worth while as a future preventive. Watering in the morning and on bright days, when possible, to keep the surface of the ground dry, is also a good preventive measure.

One of the biggest mistakes is in watering plants in cold-frames with cold water on a cloudy day or near evening, with the result that they stand still and shiver for ten days or more. Temper the extremely cold water and apply it on the warmer days as far as possible. Or if necessary on cold cloudy weather, at least apply it before one o'clock and then cover up the beds.

If you use water in the field transplanting, try adding a little solution of nitrate of soda. Not much, of course, but two pounds of nitrate to fifty gallons of water is safe and certainly does make a difference in starting off the plants.

MIMMS CUKE

We have for several years included this cuke and the Harris' Pepper in our price list because they seemed to us extra good. They have been well liked and we are glad to offer them again.

The Mimms is a strain of the white spine, early and very prolific. Fruit is good shape, long and slim, medium dark green in color. Ripens large size and white in color. Seed from selected fruit.

Price, $\frac{1}{2}$ Oz., 20c; 1 Oz., 35c.

HARRIS' EARLIEST SWEET PEPPER

A very early, medium sized and prolific pepper which is to peppers what our Earliana is to tomatoes. Very mild and sweet. No pepper is earlier.

Price, $\frac{1}{4}$ Oz., 40c; $\frac{1}{2}$ Oz., 60c; 1 Oz., \$1.00.

Please, when you have looked over this, sit down and figure out your requirements and send your order out **soon**. Seedsmen are busy folks around mid-winter and every order filled before then is so much service finished. Also, and much more important, you will have the seed on hand when you want it.

If we can help in any way, either in the selection of varieties, starting the plants or growing the crop, please feel free to call on us. If we don't know your problem we'll tell you so; if we do, we'll be glad to help.

At any rate, the great number of friendly letters received has been, to us, one of the privileges of this business. Come again.

Sincerely yours,

H. P. LANGDON & SON.

November, 1926.

**“Not What it Costs—
What it Does”**